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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination
and Protection of Minorities
Working Group on Contemporary Forms
of Slavery
Sixteenth session
29 July-2 August 1991
Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda

PREVENTION OF TRAFFIC IN PERSONS AND THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PROSTITUTION OF OTHERS

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER FIELDS OF CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Information received from non-governmental organizations

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. By its decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to establish a five-member working group to review developments in the field of the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as defined in the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949.

2. At its fortieth session, the Sub-Commission, by resolution 1988/31, approved the programme of work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery for the period 1989-1991. This programme of work (contained in chapter VI of the report of the Working Group on its thirteenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/32)) included three main themes to be discussed in successive years: prevention of the sale of children, of prostitution of children and of the use of children in pornography (1989); eradication of the exploitation of child labour and of debt bondage (1990); and prevention of traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others (1991),

3. A letter dated 28 December 1990 was sent by the Secretary-General to the non-governmental organizations concerned, inviting them to submit information on various forms of slavery to the Working Group and drawing their attention to the main theme to be singled out for discussion at the sixteenth session of the Working Group in 1991, i.e. prevention of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others.

4. By 15 May 1991, the following non-governmental organizations had submitted their communications: the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation Terre des Hommes. In the second half of 1990, however, the Centre for Human Rights also received communications in answer to the letter of 26 January 1990 inviting NGOs to submit information to the fifteenth session of the Working Group; the communications from the International Federation Terre des Hommes, the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation and the Inter-Parliamentary Union were received too late to be included in the documents prepared for the fifteenth session of the Working Group. The summaries of these two series of communications are reproduced below.*

5. Additional replies, if any, will be published in addenda to the present document.

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* The full texts of the replies received are available for consultation in the secretariat files.

INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION

[7 May 1991]
[Original: English]

1. As a follow up to the Thirtieth International Congress, the International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) proposes to undertake the following action programme during 1991-1993 towards achieving its objectives:

(a) Organize specific projects, with the help of its national affiliates and other NGOs, which will directly benefit women, men and children, victims of traffic and sexual exploitation.

(b) Sensitize public opinion on sexual exploitation with the aid of various methods of information which are available to the IAF and its member organizations (documents, interventions, films, campaigns) and a wider dissemination of the "International Prostitution Files".

(c) Organize at least two more regional conferences, one in Africa and the other in Latin America: (i) to mobilize local action both at the governmental and non-governmental levels against sexual abuse and exploitation of human beings, and (ii) to identify specific causes for the perpetuation and increase in the problem of sexual abuse and exploitation, in particular paedophilia. This information will provide better understanding to tackle the problem regionally.

(d) Participate in the campaign of the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism: (i) through creating in the concerned countries working and pressure groups (of individuals and associations) and (ii) make an input in the conference to be held in Bangkok in 1991 or 1992 by raising the interest of high-level political officials.

(e) Follow up the programme of action on the abolition of child labour which was drafted by the IAF - together with other NGOs - and adopted by the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 1989, laying particular emphasis on the relationship of debt bondage and child prostitution.

(f) Organize with other NGOs a campaign with letters, postcards and other means possible to enable public opinion to call upon governments and other competent authorities to implement article 34 on sexual exploitation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, starting out with situations or events which exist or are prevalent in their respective countries.

(g) Make every effort to publish in English and French - if possible also in German and Spanish - the report of the Thirtieth International Congress of the IAF and make it available with the resolutions to all participants, national governments and NGOs and international and United Nations Agencies for information and for appropriate action to achieve the IAF's objectives.

2. In September 1990 the Thirtieth International Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation adopted the following resolution:

"Believing that the exploitation of prostitution is a violation of human rights and that children are its first victims:

I. The Congress expresses its grave concern at:

(1) The worldwide increase and spread of prostitution and the exploitation of prostitution, particularly of child prostitution, in a situation likely to be aggravated by political and economic changes and military aggression;

(2) The growth of sex tourism which exploits the poverty of the inhabitants of third world countries and stimulates the traffic in persons;

(3) The spread of AIDS and its fatal consequences which add to the health hazards which the sexually transmitted diseases have always presented to prostitutes and clients alike;

(4) The increase in the production and distribution of pornography and its harmful effects on children and adults, particularly when 'hard core' films and videos depict scenes of violence and cruelty to child and adult victims, sometimes leading to their death;

(5) Increasing revelations of the sexual abuse of children, a subject formerly taboo, with its serious and long-term effects on ther physical and mental health;

(6) Increasing reports that babies and children are being maimed and often killed to provide organs for transplant;

(7) The trivialization by the media of the image of women.

II. The Congress:

(1) Urges all Governments to ratify or accede to the following Bill and Conventions if they have not already done so: International Bill of Human Rights, Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (2 December 1949), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (18 December 1979) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November 1989);

(2) Urges Governments to give top priroity to an action programme to fulfil the basic need of every citizen for food, shelter, clothing and health care and to direct funds to investrent in long-term social welfare programmes;

(3) Urges Governments to strengthen the judicial system and enforcement of law in order to take penal action against paedophiles, procurers, pimps and clients who are responsible for the ever rising demand in the sex market; and calls upon the public generally to condemn the sexually irresponsible and perverted men whose demand for sex objects is stimulated by the exploiters of prostitution;

(4) Urges the General Assembly of the United Nations to approve the proposal of the Economic and Social Council that the second day of December each year shall be officially declared to be the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery in All its Forms;

(5) Proposes to the Commission on Human Rights that it should examine the possibility of recommending the adoption of a United Nations Decade against Sexual Slavery from 1992-2001;

(6) Recommends to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that a unit should be created which would be charged exclusively with the responsibility of coordinating, in liaison with other United Nations organs and agencies, international institutions and non-governmental organizations, activities relating to the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and all other forms of sexual exploitation;

(7) Calls upon the World Health Organization to intensify and broaden its efforts to contain, reduce and ultimately prevent the spread of AIDS, to resist all attempts to achieve this by regulationist measures directed against prostitutes, and to discourage all members of the public from sexually promiscuous behaviour, whether spontaneous or commercialized;

(8) Invites the World Tourist Organization to give practical effect to the Tourist Bill of Rights and Tourist Code, particularly Articles IV(e) and XI(2)(d) which are designed to prevent tourism being used for prostitution purposes;

(9) Calls upon UNICEF to ensure that their situation analysis and actions in favour of children worldwide take account of children in prostitution and children who are victims of sale and traffic of all kinds;

(10) Calls upon professional organizations of journalists and the directors of television channels and radio stations, in conformity with article 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to develop appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of article 13 (freedom of expression), article 18 (parental responsibilities), article 34 (sexual exploitation) and article 35 (abduction and sale);

(11) Encourages the media to disseminate information on social welfare and human rights issues;

(12) Urges the United Nations to adopt a global programme of action (through the General Assembly) against sexual abuse and slavery on lines similar to that adopted on drug abuse and illicit trafficking;

(13) Addresses an urgent appeal to every citizen of all countries in the world to join personally in the struggle of the International Abolitionist Federation to remove from humanity's future this unacceptable and dangerous scourge, the sexual exploitation of adults and children."

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

[5 March 1991]
[Original: French]

1. The mandate of the ICRC is to protect and assist military and civilian victims of armed conflicts and internal strife and tension. In that specific context, it is concerned with children who, because of their vulnerability, need special protection. Through its action on behalf of the victims of such situations, it seeks to protect children better and to promote their rights.

2. The recruitment of children and their involvement in hostilities are unacceptable practices, forbidden by the Additional Protocols of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. These instruments prohibit the recruitment of children under 15 years of age into the armed forces. These treaties urge States to give priority to those who are oldest when recruiting children from 15 to 18 years of age. Furthermore, no less than 25 provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols afford special protection to children as particularly vulnerable human beings.

3. Despite the protection afforded to children under the law, they continue to be recruited into the armed forces and participate in hostilities. Accordingly, efforts should be directed mainly towards enforcing existing provisions. There is no doubt that the recommendations of the Working Group will be an important step in that direction. These recommendations are of considerable interest to us; we would therefore be grateful if you would send us a copy of them once they are adopted.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION TERRE DES HOMMES

[9 July 1990]
[Original: French]

1. The FITDH is much concerned over the question of civilians who are in any way victims of an armed conflict. Too many people, and in particular children, are not receiving the protection to which they are entitled under the provisions of the international humanitarian law in force. The same is true of internal refugees, who cannot be assisted by international bodies and who are all too often deprived of care because the opposing forces deny humanitarian organizations access to the places where they are located. Thus, internal refugee children run the risk of premature death because of the unhealthy conditions to which they are exposed, malnutrition and the risk of epidemics.

2. In the opinion of FITDH, violence and armed conflicts lead to the denial of all the fundamental rights of children and deprive children of their youth. The FITDH has submitted a written communication on the subject to the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1990/NGO/23). Furthermore, a child who has known only violence will generally be able to reproduce only violence. He may well become an aggressive person who will prove a danger to society when that society tries to re-establish peace.

3. Children are the best investment for the future, and the destruction of their positive potential through violence will have incalculable consquences on future generations. The link between the physical and mental development of children and the economic and social development of nations is becoming increasingly obvious, and the forums that disregard the future contribution of children do so at their own risk.

4. As far as they are able, the members of the FITDH attempt to resolve the situation of child victims of violence and armed conflict. They support numerous projects, such as projects for refugee children, child victims of apartheid and projects for the rehabilitation of children affected by violence. They also publish certain documents on this subject to inform the public, in particular the European public, of the damaging effects of violence on children. One member of the FITDH, Terre des Hommes-Suisse (Basel), for example, has published a paper in German on this subject.

5. The FITDH, one of whose projects is the annual commemoration of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, has chosen "Children and war" as its theme for a seminar on 20 November 1990. On that occasion, its efforts will be directed towards promoting international humanitarian law, many provisions of which award special protection to children in situations of armed conflict. In the opinion of the FITDH, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols of 1977 are valuable instruments for the protection of children and civilians in general, if all requisite measures are taken to enforce their provisions. Regarding child soldiers, the FITDH regrets that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, whose great value it none the less recognizes, somewhat weakens the rules of international humanitarian law in force.

6. Finally, the FITDH is in favour of a continuing cooperation among the governmental and non-governmental international organizations on all issues related to the prevention of violence against children and the rehabilitation of children traumatized by armed conflicts, and it is prepared to contribute to such cooperation. Moreover, the FITDH would like to recommend that all States should pursue the disarmament campaign already under way and devote a portion of the sums thus released to specific measures to enforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION TERRE DES HOMMES

[14 March 1991]
[Original: French]

1. The exploitation of the prostitution of others is a gross violation of a large number of human rights. It endangers the dignity and integrity of the human person and produces considerable illicit profits. Its situation is specific to each country and must be studied as such, even though common factors may exist at the regional or international level. The situation concerning the exploitation of prostitution varies from State to State for it is dependent, inter alia, on historical factors, standard of living, social policy, culture, the relaxation in standards of behaviour, the break-up of family values and sexual tourism.

2. It is very difficult to obtain reliable statistics on the exploitation of child prostitution, for it falls within the sphere of illegality. Child prostitution is affecting more and more children, at a younger and younger age. Once they are involved in prostitution, children have very little chance of leaving it and returning to a normal life, for they have generally lost their most valuable years in terms of social education, schooling and vocational training.

3. In Kenya, girls are the most vulnerable members of the family. Many become pregnant as soon as they reach puberty. They then find it very difficult to find a husband. Many girls in the towns have unwanted pregnancies. They are prepared to have sexual relations in order to buy food and clothing. Their mothers, who have considerable influence over them, sometimes encourage them to prostitute themselves to earn money. Once they have a child, the girls must meet the child's needs. They then enter the vicious circle of prostitution. In Nairobi, there have been cases of girls prostituting themselves in order to pay for their schooling.

4. In India, prostitution, especially among children, is very widespread in the major cities. A study on Bombay has shown that 25 per cent of prostitutes had been kidnapped and then sold, 8 per cent had been sold by their fathers after being subjected to incestuous relations and 6 per cent had been sold following a rape. In Poona, 15 per cent of the prostitutes had been sold by their husbands. The sale of children for the purposes of prostitution is commonplace, especially in Bihar. This phenomenon appears to be on the increase.

5. In Sri Lanka, the number of young people who are full-time or part-time prostitutes can be estimated at over 10,000. Three quarters of them come from the most disadvantaged areas, especially rural areas. The main clients of this prostitution are northern Europeans and North Americans. The effects of this sexual tourism, which has not been checked by the civil war, are frightening. The children are often so young that they cannot even explain what happened to them. Gifts as well as very small amounts of money enable Western tourists to have what they want. But the children's hope of being taken abroad is usually dashed. Finally, the older they get, the harder it is for them to live from prostitution. But by then it is usually too late to complete their schooling or take up training. These children also suffer from psychological disturbances, and their taste for luxury makes it practically impossible for them to reintegrate into society with a lower income. Thus they are virtually doomed <u>de facto</u> to marginality and criminality.

6. The member movements of FITDH are reacting to the scourge of child prostitution. Some of them (TDH-Switzerland and TDH-Germany) are participating in the world campaign against child prostitution. The starting point of this campaign is the fact that sexual tourism in South-East Asia has largely contributed to the current increase in child prostitution. In Germany, this campaign will involve informing the public about this sexual tourism and its disastrous effects, stimulating public discussion, encouraging the Government to act in order to punish or treat the culprits once they return to their country and helping child victims of sexual tourism.

7. Similarly, in Brazil, street children who are girls receive even less attention from the authorities than boys. In Recife, a FITDH member is supporting a project to help approximately 500 street girls threatened with prostitution. The project is based on observing their daily life and understanding the factors that comprise it. It includes a reception centre for these girls and a telephone line, "SOS-STREET GIRLS". Literacy, cooking, sewing and art courses are provided, and the reception centre endeavours to train these young girls to lead a normal life.

8. Concerning the exploitation of child labour, in Guatemala City 11 per cent of children 10 to 14 years of age and 42 per cent of young people 15 to 19 years of age are forced to work regularly to assure their own and their families' survival. Their work schedules are very heavy (over 40 hours per week) and their wages minimal. The number of street children has been increasing regularly for five or six years. It is difficult to ascertain their exact number, but in any event it is thought to exceed 28,000. To redress this situation, a FITDH member is sponsoring a project for street children and is using specialized educators. The project consists of establishing reception centres that provide literacy courses, vocational training and resources for purchasing the materials needed to perform a job. The project managers have noted that the chances of reintegrating street children with their families and society are minimal once they are organized in gangs. Another project is intended for the children of the San José shanty towns. These children, who have very little chance of attending school, go to the capital where they are forced to work, to prostitute themselves or fall into crime. This project provides teaching that is suited to the circumstances of children in difficulty, addressing problems they may confront, such as exploitation or prostitution. These problems are not dealt with in the ordinary education system. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide the beneficiaries with some degree of self-sufficiency.

9. In Indonesia, the exact number of children who work regularly is difficult to determine. They are estimated to make up over 4 per cent of the total working population. A number of these children also go to school. Child labour is used in both rural and urban areas. Children participate in agricultural, industrial or domestic activities. Many of them are homeless and work in the street selling, shining shoes or begging. Most of them receive paltry wages for very long working hours. They are not unionized, and the girls are often exposed to sexual violence. In the village of Delanggu, 20 km from Solo, the deterioration of the economic situation has forced children to take part in the production of home-made knives, which has been the traditional activity of this village for centuries. This cottage industry involves approximately 300 families and employs some 400 children. The children who work also go to school, which means that they have a very long day and no opportunity to play or rest. Because of this, some of them refuse to go to school, thereby jeopardizing their future. The children work hard and conscientiously, in unhealthy conditions, for they know that their survival depends on the number of knives they produce. In the town of Malang, there are many street children. Some left their homes because they had been forced to work in order to help their families to survive, but also in order to purchase products that were not basic necessities, such as television sets. When these children work, they have very long hours and are often tracked down by the police who try to take them away to detention centres. Despite all their difficulties, the street children of Malang have retained a lively and inventive spirit and a certain joyfulness characteristic of their age.

10. In India, in Firuzabad, children account for 20 per cent of the work-force in the glass industry. Their work is performed in premises where the temperature reaches 40-45° C, which makes it unbearable in summer. These children have all kinds of health problems. In Uttar Pradesh, children work from 14 to 18 hours a day for very low wages. In the eastern part of the State, the carpet industry employs over 75,000 children in difficult and unhealthy conditions and in spite of the legislation in force. When the children's hands are no longer slender enough to do the knotting work they become unemployed, for they have received no training. They are beaten when they make mistakes, and when they fall ill either they are not cared for or the money spent on their care is deducted from their wages. Finally, in Calcutta, there are said to be over 35,000 child workers aged between 10 and 16. Seventy-five per cent of them are completely illiterate, and the others left school at the primary level.

11. In conclusion the FIDTH would like to recommend that the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery should:

(1) Study the cultural aspects of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, in particular the mechanisms that lead to family organization based on archaic principles such as inequality between the sexes or the fact that children are considered to be their parents' property;

(2) Conduct individual case studies in the light of the specific features of the culture that produced the cases, to identify the most frequent causes of the exploitation of the prostitution of others;

(3) Stress in all its reports the importance of the family and family values as elements for preventing the practice of prostitution;

(4) Use the various media to disseminate its reports and conclusions;

(5) Encourage States to punish more severely persons who benefit from child prostitution in any way;

(6) Encourage the NGOs to publicize the projects they have conducted to prevent the exploitation of the prostitution of others in the light of their degree of success and to disseminate widely their conclu 'ons to States;

(7) Recommend that the United Nations bodies concerned should establish an emergency procedure to help child victims of any form of exploitation;

(8) Encourage States to cooperate with local authorities to establish, if necessary, telephone assistance lines that are free and accessible to children of any age who are victims of any violation of their rights.

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE, GARMENT AND
LEATHER WORKERS' FEDERATION

[28 October 1990]
[Original: English]

The Executive Committee of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation, meeting in Caracas from 28 to 30 October 1990;

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted at its forty-fourth session in November 1989; recent surveys showing child labour in a number of countries to be reaching 25 per cent of the labour force;

Further recalling the Resolution on Child Labour adopted by the Fifth World Congress of the ITGLWF in Tokyo in September 1988;

Deeply concerned that despite the growing awareness of this scandalous form of exploitation, child labour persists and in many countries, developed and developing, is growing, with children often forced to work for long hours in deplorable conditions in the textile, clothing and leather industries exposed to toxic fumes and chemicals, and deprived of basic education;

Calls on all Governments quickly to ratify and strictly implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for the Admission to Employment, and related ILO Conventions and Recommendations;

Condemns the increasing number of employers who knowingly and wilfully employ children as cheap labour in defiance of the international conventions and laws of the country concerned;

Demands the involvement of trade unions at all levels to increase the awareness of the exploitation of children in employment, and to improve and enforce national legislation prohibiting child labour;

Appeals to all ITGLWF affiliates to intensify efforts at seeking the eventual abolition of child labour through active campaigns;

Requests all affiliates to act against Governments and employers exploiting child labour by:

- vigilant monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and relevant ILO Conventions and Recommendations;

- promoting and demanding economic and social policies to eradicate poverty and illiteracy which are the root causes of child labour;

- increasing pressure on Governments urgently to create appropriate educational opportunities for children who are already working, or who might otherwise become child workers;

- alerting public opinion, both nationally, regionally and internationally, for intensive action against child labour;

- pressing companies, national and multinational, to ensure that they or their suppliers do not use child labour and promoting boycott action against them if they refuse.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

[2 July 1990]
[Original: English]

The eighty-first Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Background

Noting that 30 years have passed since the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and 10 years since the proclamation of the International Year of the Child,

Recalling that the need to extend special care to the child is stated in the 1924 Geneva Declaration and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations in 1959, and that this need is recognized by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Underlining the commendable efforts and achievements of the United Nations in promoting and protecting the rights of children, as well as the irreplaceable role of UNICEF and the work of non-governmental organizations in safeguarding the lives and well-being of children throughout the world,

Noting the consistent work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in improving the well-being of children and protecting their rights, reflected by the resolutions and recommendations adopted by various IPU Conferences and specialized meetings held in different parts of the world since 1931,

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Expressing satisfaction that the second reading of the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has been completed, and that the draft is being considered by the United Nations Economic and Social Council with a resolution that it be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

Convinced that the draft International Convention on the Rights of the Child, as an achievement of the United Nations in setting legally binding standards in the field of human rights, represents a positive contribution to the protection of the rights of children and of their well-being,

The situation of children

Stressing, however, that children have special needs during their physical and mental development and therefore require special care, protection and their own rights,

Convinced that the family plays a fundamental role in the education and development of the child,

Appalled that more than 40,000 children, primarily in developing countries, continue to die each day from common childhood diseases which can be prevented,

Deeply concerned that millions of children live in conditions of extreme poverty, suffer from malnutrition, hunger, illness, maltreatment and environmental pollution, and lack social provision for their physical and mental development,

Further concerned that children are also victims of war, are refugees or homeless, that they suffer as a result of apartheid or racial or other discrimination or of colonial or foreign domination, that they are subject to neglect, physical abuse, abduction, illegal trafficking or drug abuse, or are exploited for the purposes of labour, prostitution or pornography,

Also concerned at the potential threat to children posed by recent technological developments, particularly in the field of biological and genetic engineering, and by uncontrolled access to many kinds of electronic transmissions,

The economic factor

Realizing that the total debt of the developing world is over 1 trillion dollars and that the most onerous effects of such debt are borne by children, and aware that since 1979, arms imports by developing countries have added 15 per cent annually to their growing debt, diverting already scarce resources which could have been spent on child welfare,

Noting that the situation of children in developing countries is worsening owing to sharp cuts in health and education spending made in the context of structural adjustment programmes designed to cope with the growing debt burden,

Emphasizing that the rights of children should be protected in all circumstances, regardless of ethnic background, nationality, race or religion,

Implementation of the Convention

1. Welcomes the many precise, concrete provisions in the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child which concern children's rights to protection and services and to participate in social life, and their right to their own life;

2. Stresses the importance of the measures provided for in the draft Convention to examine progress made by States parties in fulfilling their obligations, in particular the importance of the future Committee on the Rights of the Child;

3. Calls on the Parliaments of all States to urge their respective Governments to accede to this Convention and to ratify it as soon as possible after its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

4. Asks each Parliament and Government to make the necessary changes to national legislation to align it with the provisions of the Convention, it being understood that this process cannot lead to a restriction of any more favourable rights which may exist in each State;

5. Recommends that each State adopt information policies aimed at making both children and adults aware of the measures taken to promote children's rights and of progress made in the achievement of those rights;

Action of Parliaments

6. Strongly urges parliamentarians the world over to propose new legislation in fields such as taxation, social security, labour, housing, health care, working hours, parental leave, education and services, that will enable parents to ensure that their children enjoy the best possible conditions for their psychological, physical, intellectual, and emotional development;

7. Also strongly urges Parliaments to consider the means by which they can most effectively monitor and contribute to the implementation of children's rights in their own countries by establishing ombuds institutions for children;

8. Calls on all Parliaments, governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, religious and community groups, and society as a whole to join in a grand alliance for the defence and protection of children's rights;

9. Calls on Parliaments to present initiatives to strengthen families and to promote family stability:

(a) Particularly to ensure the protection of the most underprivileged families by improving their living conditions;

(b) By supporting parental education programmes in health, nutrition and family planning; and

(c) By providing programmes in family planning, immunization and primary health care, making them known and ensuring economic and geographical access to them;

10. Calls on all States to minimize the deleterious effects of technology on children by instituting adequate controls and safeguards;

11. Also calls on Parliaments to improve the draft Convention so that minors, including children under the age of 18, are neither recruited into combatant armed forces nor recruited to take part in hostilities, and stresses that the protection accorded by the Convention should be at least equivalent to that accorded by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977;

12. Strongly urges Heads of State and Government to convene a summit meeting on children's problems, set concrete goals and take positive action to protect the children of today who will make up the world of tomorrow;

13. Urges Governments and international organizations to ensure that in the implementation of development programmes, priority is given to the well-being of children;

14. Strongly denounces violations of the rights of children which result from armed conflict, undemocratic or racist policies and foreign occupation, and urges all Governments to contribute to the protection of the rights of children who are oppressed by the inhuman policy of apartheid, who live in occupied territories or who are refugees;

Economic considerations

15. Stresses that the rights of children can best be advanced and guaranteed through concerted efforts by the whole international community to establish a just international economic order and to settle conflicts and remove hotbeds of tension by means of dialogue and negotiations, so that the precarious situation of children in developing countries may be redressed;

16. Appeals to the industrialized nations and to international monetary authorities to provide debt relief to third world debtor nations and increase assistance to them so that they can release more resources to fund children's programmes;

17. Urges all Governments to support disarmament measures and to use the funds released to secure the economic and social development of children the world over, especially in developing countries;

Special concerns

18. Urges all States to guarantee that children are protected against exploitation in the work force in accordance with international labour conventions and article 32 of the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child;

19. Calls on all Parliaments to ensure that girls are given equal opportunities with boys in all spheres of society, in particular in education, health care, food and equal remuneration for work;

20. Recognizes the right of children belonging to national or ethnic minorities to enjoy their own culture and receive instruction in their mother tongue;

21. Calls on Parliaments to take appropriate measures to strengthen international cooperation for the protection of children's rights in the area of custody, support and visitation where appropriate, and to enable adopted children to maintain contact with their native language, culture and heritage;

22. Urges Parliaments to review national law and practice, as they concern juveniles, to ensure compatibility with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the "Beijing Rules"), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/33 of 29 November 1985, and to support present efforts to adopt guidelines on delinquency prevention (the "Riyadh Rules") and Standard Minimum Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty;

23. Calls on donor countries to increase their voluntary contributions to the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which has made it possible to improve significantly the quality of nutrition of the most vulnerable population groups concerned, thereby reducing infant mortality, also calls on donor countries to increase their contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and requests all parties concerned to facilitate the mission of UNRWA.